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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 SP-02 PM-05
HA-05 CPR-03 NSC-05 IO-13 EB-08 AGRE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 L-03 PA-01 /108 W
----------012671 211813Z /45
R 211131Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4558
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1387

DEPARTMENT FOR AF- AMBASSADOR HARROP

ROME FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, EAID, GV, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOURE'SINTEREST IN VISITING US

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1339 (B) CONAKRY 1295 (C) CONAKRY 1373

1. SUMMARY: CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BANGOURA RAISED SUBJECT OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO US AGAIN JULY 15, SUGGESTED OCTOBER WHEN TOURE COULD ADDRESS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. BANGOURA SAID TOURE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH US; THEY ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT. RECOMMEND FAVORABLY DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION OF VISIT IN VIEW STRONGLY POSITIVE TREND OF GOG POLICIES AND ACTIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR AND DESIRABILITY OF CONSOLIDATING THAT TREND. END SUMMARY.
2. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION JULY 15 ON ANOTHER MATTER, PRESIDENT TOURE'S CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ALY BANGOURA AGAIN RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR THE QUESTION OF PRESIDENTIAL
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VISIT TO US. STRONGLY PRESSED DESIRABILITY OF SUCH VISIT, AND SUGGESTED SOME TIME IN OCTOBER,AS TOURE COULD ADDRESS UNGA AND THEN GO TO WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. BANGOURA ASSERTED HE WAS MAKING THIS SUGGESTION ON HIS OWN AND WOULD NOT TAKE IT FARTHER UNTIL HE HAD INDICATION THE VISIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, IF INVITATION WERE EXTENDED, HE WAS SURE TOURE

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WOULD ACCEPT.
3. IN VIEW BANGOURA'S PERSISTENCE ON THIS MATTER, AMBASSADOR DOUBTED WHETHER, IF SUCH VISIT WERE TO BECOME POSSIBLE, SEKOU TOURE WOULD WANT TO DO OR DISCUSS ANY SPECIAL THINGS. BANGOOURA SAID OF COURSE, HE WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND US ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE, TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS, ETC. AMBASSADOR CITED AID AGR-ICULTURAL PROJECT BUT ADDED THAT IN VIEW PROMISING PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GUINEA, US INPUT IS MORE LIKELY TO BE MADE BY PRIVATE COMPANIES. BANGOURA WELCOMED THIS AND SAID US HAS GREAT CAPABILITIES AND GOG KNOWS US COULD CONTRIBUTE MORE TO GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT. SAID GUINEAN DEVELOPMENT HAD COME TO A STOP AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE, AND THE COUNTRY IS NOW CLEARLY BEHIND MOST OTHER AFRICAN STATES; THEY CANNOT GO ON LIKE THIS AND NEED OUR HELP. HE SAID IF GUINEA HAD CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WITH US, IT WOULD NOT NEED TO PLAY THE FIELD FOR ECONOMIC LINKS, AID, ETC. AMBASSADOR OFFERED VIEW THAT IT WAS HEALTHY AND BENEFICIAL FOR GUINEA TO HAVE BROAD ECONOMIC CONTACTS RATHER THAN BE TOO HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON ANY ONE COUNTRY, INCLUDING US; IN INTEREST OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND PURSUIT OF GUINEA'S OWN INTERESTS, BALANCED RANGE OF ECONOMIC RELATIOC COULD OFFER WIDER ADVANTAGES. REFERRING TO TOURE'S MENTION OF SOVIET TU-95 AIR RECON-NAISSANCE FLIGHTS, AMBASSADOR SAID IT IS SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY THAT CAUSE US CONCERN, NO AGUINEA'S
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ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION; IFTHE SOVIETS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO GUINEA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ALL THE BETTER. BANGOURA SAID RUEFULLY GOG HAS NOT RECEIVED THE HELP IT HAD EXPECTED FROMTHE SOVIET UNION, AND WHAT IT GOT WAS NOT AS BENEFICIAL AS IT HAD HOPED. ADDED THAT WHEN US DOES SOMETHING,IT DOES IT WELL, IN A STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER AND IT REALLY WORKS. SAID PRESIDENT TOURE APPRECIATES THIS AND THEREFORE WANTS CLOSER ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION WITH THE US. BANGOURA CON-CLUDED BY SAYING HE AWAITED WASHINGTON RESPONSE ON THE POSSIBILITY WITH INTEREST.

4. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT, AS HE HAD MENTIONED TO SEKOU TOURE JULY 13, HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS LOOM LARGE IN WASHINGTON THINKING.RECENT ADDITIONAL IMPROVE-MENTS IN GUINEAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ARE VERY WELCOME, AND CONTINUED PROGRESS IN THIS AREA WILL CON-TRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO ATMOSPHERE OF US/GUINEAN RELATTIONS AND COOPERATION. RIGHTLY OR WROONGLY, THERE HAS BEEN MUCH CRITICISM OF GUINEA ON THIS SCORE, SO EVIDENCE OF POSI-TIVE PROGRESS IS MOST IMPORTANT. BANGOURA SAID THE SITU-ATION IN GUINEA IS NOW OF RELATIVELY MINOR PROPORTIONS:

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ONLY 10-12 "TOP PLOTTERS" REMAIN IN PRISON FROM THE 1970
EVENTS. SEKOU TOURE HAS BEEN PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY IN
RELEASING DETAINEES TO AVOID ADVERSE POPULAR REACTION.
HE HAS RELEASED PRISONERS IN CONNECTION WITH OCCASIONS
WHEN THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN IN CHEERFUL MOOD,SUCH AS
DECEMBER 1977 HAFIA VICTORY, 31ST PARTY ANNIVERSARY IN
MAY 1978, AND HE SURELY WILL RELEASE MORE AT 11TH
PARTY CONGRESS THIS SEPTEMBER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1387

DEPARTMENT FOR AF - AMBASSADOR HARROP

ROME FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

REF: (A) CONAKRY 1339 (B) CONAKRY 1295 (C) CONAKRY 1373

5.COMMENT:

A. SEKOU TOURE IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF BANGOURLGJS INQUIRY
ABOUT THE US VISIT, AND THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THE
INTEREST IS OFFICIAL; THEY SIMPLY PREFER TO RAISE IT
IN THIS MANNER TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT. CHINESE AMBAS-
SADDOR PENG HAS CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT CHINESE INVI-
TATION TO TOURE WAS ISSUED AFTER PENG HAD BEEN APPROACHED
IN MUCH THE SAME WAY.

B. ALL EVIDENCE HERE INDICATES THAT GOG IS SERIOUS IN
ITS DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND THAT
GUINEA'S HUMAN RIGHTSVIOLATIONS ARE A THING OF THE PAST,

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NO POLITICAL ARRESTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE DURING LAST NINE MONTHS, AND GOG INTENDS RELEASE VIRTUALLY ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS BY YEAR'S END. IN LIGHT OF OBVIOUS STRONG
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GUINEAN INTEREST IN US VISIT, AND AS VISITS TO CHINA AND INDIA HAVE BEEN AGREED, WE BELIEVE NEGATIVE US RESPONSE WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT TO SEKOU TOURE, UNDERCUTTING POSITIVE EFFECT OF FORTHCOMING MOOSE VISIT AND POSSIBLY SOURING TOURE ON US FOR TIME BEING. EXCEPT FOR PL-480, USG MATERIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO GUINEA HAVE BEEN MODEST DURING PAST YEAR, NOTFULLY RESPONSIVE TO STRONGLY POSITIVE TREND OF GOG POLICIES AND ACTIONS. THERE HAVE IN FACT BEEN A NUMBER OF DISAPPOINTMENTS TO GOG, MOST RECENT BEING PATROL BOATS. IN A PERSONAL REGIME SUCH AS GUINEA'S THE ATTITUDE AND OUTLOOK OF THE LEADER ARE CRUCIAL; ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT AT THIS TIME, A PERSONAL ONE FOR THE PRESIDENT, COULD HAVE AN IMPACT OUT OF PROPORTION WITH ITS INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE.FOR THIS REASON AS WELL AS THOSE SET FORTH REF B, WE RECOM-MEND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF TOURE VISIT TO US. IF VISIT CANNOT BE FITTED IN DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS, WE BELIEVE TOURE WOULD BE CONTENT WITH OPEN-ENDED INVI-TATION, DATE SUBJECT TO LATER DETERMINATION. AS SUGGESTED REF C, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF DURING HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH TOURE AUGUST 2-3 MOOSE WERE IN A POSITION TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO US.
END COMMENT.
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